



Our ref: AA1000636  
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1/03/2023

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Dear Interested Party

## Health Partners Limited – Application for authorisation AA1000636 – Interested party consultation

On 16 February 2023, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (**ACCC**) received an application for authorisation from Health Partners Limited (**Health Partners**). This letter is to invite you to comment. You are welcome to pass this letter on to others who may wish to make submissions.

Health Partners is seeking authorisation<sup>1</sup> under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth) on behalf of itself and dentists and dental practices it enters into agreements with to form part of its network of partner dental practices (**Partner Practices**). Authorisation would give Health Partners and its Partner Practices legal protection from competition laws to establish a network of dental practices across South Australia, cap the maximum prices for certain routine dental services provided to members and ensure that members are not charged more than the Partner Practice's usual fee schedule.

Health Partners is seeking authorisation for 10 years. A full copy of the application for authorisation is available on the ACCC's [authorisations public register](#).

### Interim authorisation

Health Partners has also requested interim authorisation to allow it to enter into agreements with Partner Practices and allow its Partner Practices to provide capped services prior to the ACCC's final determination in relation to the substantive application for authorisation.

### Making a submission

The ACCC invites you to make a submission on the application for authorisation. In making your submission, please provide information, evidence and views about the likely public benefits, effects on competition and any other public detriment that you consider will result from the proposed conduct.

If you intend to provide a submission in relation to the **interim authorisation and substantive application**, please do so by **15 March 2023**. Extensions are not normally granted for submissions on interim authorisation.

If you do however wish to request an extension, please contact us on the details below as early as possible. Submissions after the due date (or after any extension granted) may not be taken into account.

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<sup>1</sup> For information about Authorisations, please see <https://www.accc.gov.au/business/exemptions/authorisation>

Submissions should be lodged via the web form accessible on the public register page for this matter. Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Bethany White via the details at the end of this letter.

Your submission **will** be placed on the ACCC's [authorisations public register on the internet](#) unless you have made a request (with reasons) for us to exclude part or all of the submission from the public register. See [Guidelines for Excluding Information from the Public Register](#) for information on how to make a request and how we assess requests.

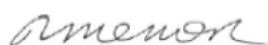
## Timetable

The ACCC will progress its assessment of the application in a timely manner. An indicative timetable is set out below for your information, and an up-to-date version (including any changes) will be posted on the public register.

| Indicative date         | Stage in assessment process  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>16 February 2023</b> | Lodgement of application and supporting submission.                            |
| <b>1 March 2023</b>     | Public consultation process begins.  |
| <b>15 March 2023</b>    | Closing date for submissions from interested parties.                          |
| <b>March/April 2023</b> | ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation and draft determination          |
| <b>April/May 2023</b>   | Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called. |
| <b>May/June 2023</b>    | Final determination.   |

This letter has been placed on the ACCC's public register. If you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Bethany White on (03) 6215 9318 or [exemptions@acc.gov.au](mailto:exemptions@acc.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Naomi Menon  
Director  
Competition Exemptions